

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Tribal Nation Hosts NRCS Chief Bruce Knight**

Lansing, MI. August 29, 2002 – Today Chief Bruce Knight, leader of the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) visited the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) in Baraga, Michigan. The KBIC became the first American Indian Tribe to establish a Tribal Conservation District in Michigan under Tribal National Law and the first Tribal Conservation District in the nation under the George W. Bush Administration.

The KBIC Tribal Council and Conservation District staff toured a number of environmental work sites in the Keweenaw Bay area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula with Chief Knight. The sites included an area contaminated by mining waste that is being redeveloped into recreational property, a tribal fish hatchery, a flood control project and an Environmental Quality Incentive Program site.

Chief Knight presented a plaque to the KBIC in honor of the partnership between the United States and the KBIC Tribal Nation for the protection of natural resources. The NRCS will work jointly with the KBIC Conservation District on natural resource programs.

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